the five working groups covering coal, renewable energy and new technologies, oil and gas, civil nuclear and power and energy efficiency established under the bilateral Indo-US Energy Dialogue were discussed during the US Secretary of Energy's visit to India during March 20-22, 2007.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Wind power potential in Kerala

2845. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total wind power potential in Kerala;

(b) the percentage thereof which has been tapped;

(c) the details of action taken by Government to tap the entire potential; and

(d) the assistance given by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The wind power potential estimated in Kerala is about 875 MW.

(b) Only about 0.2% of the potential has so far been tapped in the State of Kerala.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Kerala has issued guidelines for establishment of private wind farms including development of wind farms, in private land and technical clearance for setting up of 16.95 MW wind power projects. The Government of India promotes setting up of commercial wind power projects in the country, including in the State of Kerala, by providing incentives such as financial assistance for demonstration wind power projects, concessional import duty for wind electricity generator sub-systems, excise duty exemption, ten years tax holiday on power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and identification of more potential locations by carrying out wind resource assessment studies. This apart, preferential tariff is being provided for wind power in most of the potential States.

Electrification of villages through solar and bio-gas energy in Assam

2846. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified through solar and bio-gas energy in Assam during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have launched any scheme to provide solar or bio-gas energy to the rural areas of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?